

## John Rhea to Andrew Jackson, December 24, 1817, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN RHEA TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 24, 1817.

*Dear General,* After reading your letter of the fifth instant, which I received yesterday, I wrote a long letter designing to send it to you, but expecting that you have before this day received, or that you will soon receive my last letter from this City to you, I will refer you to it, and more particularly so, as it contains an explanation, relative to the Mission of Majr Long to Praire Du Chiene, that I expect will be satisfactory to you. in this letter I will observe, that being fully informed by the best authority respecting that case I believe that by the Mission and return of Major Long no intention was entertained to offer any thing derogatory to your command and authority as Major General of the southern division. I hope you have abandoned the design of resigning your commission or retiring from your command. The President is opposed to your retiring, and you know it, will you then retire against his consent, who is your friend? You intimate that it will gratify your enemies, and you intimate that you will not gratify them, will you then retire and give them cause for exultation? I trust you will continue. from the best authority I have reason to believe, that Mr. C1 is opposed to your retiring. Let me request you to beleive with great caution, and hardly then, all statements made by anonymous writers, an enemy to effect purposes may under mask of friendship, write such letters, and stumbling blocks are often thrown between friends to accomplish designs. This letter remaining unsealed, now on 25th December. I have understood that you will take no more Notice of Writting, by those you believe hostile to you—if so it meets, and no doubt will meet the approbation of all your friends, as will [ *sic* ] as mine. notice them not, and determine to, your mind will be at rest.

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I am anxious to have your answer to my last letter. I do most sensibly condole with you on the departure of Majr Hutchins, he had my esteem.

1 Calhoun.

That you may be well and happy is the earnest wish of